

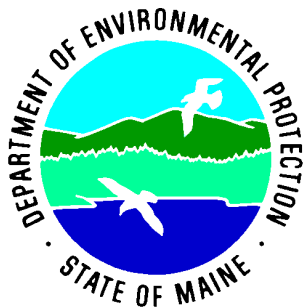


# Maine Stream Team Program NEWS

Networking, Education, and Stewardship

Volume 2 Issue 3

Summer/Fall 2002



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**Check us  
out on the  
web!**  
[www.state.  
me.us/dep/  
blwq/](http://www.state.me.us/dep/blwq/)

## Stream Team Profiles:

### Damariscotta Lake Watershed Association Stream Team

Submitted by Megan Sines

July 31<sup>st</sup> proved to be an excellent day for a Stream Team habitat walk and training. Nine of us gathered bright and early at the Damariscotta Lake Watershed Association's (DLWA) office in Jefferson to learn about how to access and monitor local stream quality. Brie Begiebing (MSTP) presented an overview of stream monitoring basics before we went into the field to apply our knowledge.

The day's warm temperature made arriving at our testing site on Davis Stream all the more enjoyable. Following protocol, we measured a 300-ft length of stream and walked it entirely before convening as a group to gather our findings.

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Volunteers survey Davis Stream

### Hope Elementary 8th Grade Stream Team



Team members sample macroinvertebrates

Ms. Poulin's 8<sup>th</sup> grade class undertook an in-depth study of their local stream, Cliney Brook, this past spring. The students performed a stream habitat walk, sampled macroinvertebrates, monitored water quality, and learned about invasive plant species, smelt spawning, and land use history through a collaborative community based learning effort with the following people: Bill Woodard (Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife biologist), Debb Hastings (Alford Lake/Lermond Pond Assoc. President), Bill Jones (Hope Historical Society), students from Herring Gut Learning Center, and Brie Begiebing, Emily Kuhnlein, Christy Monroe, and Kaia Peterson (Maine Conservation Corps/AmeriCorps Environmental Educators).

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## National Water Monitoring Day October 18, 2002

[www.yearofcleanwater.org](http://www.yearofcleanwater.org)

In honor of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the federal Clean Water Act, the year 2002 has been declared the Year of Clean Water. Volunteer monitors, agency staff, and members of the public are invited to join the celebration by participating in National Water Monitoring Day, scheduled to commemorate the very day -- October 18, 1972 --- on which the Act was signed into law. This fall, volunteer and government monitors will take to the waters on or about October 18 to sample a core set of water quality parameters: **temperature, pH, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen.**

Side-by-side monitoring between volunteers and professionals is strongly encouraged, though even classrooms and citizens who've never tested their water before will be able to participate with a simple and inexpensive Year of Clean Water kit. All protocols, equipment, and monitoring methods are welcome. Participants can enter their data and see results obtained from other participants almost immediately via the internet.

Organized by America's Clean Water Foundation and a steering committee representing government agencies and volunteer monitoring organizations, National Water Monitoring Day will also feature water festivals, educational events, and widespread press coverage. The event is designed to:

- **Educate the public about water quality issues and the role of monitoring and volunteers**
- **Encourage and strengthen partnerships between volunteer monitors and government monitoring agencies**
- **Provide a snapshot of water quality 30 years after the passage of the Clean Water Act and**
- **Celebrate the accomplishments of the Act while identifying work that still needs to be done.**

Updates on National Water Monitoring Day, including information on pre-registration and ordering the special monitoring kit for \$16.75 (for total newcomers) will be posted via e-mail at <[www.yearofcleanwater.org](http://www.yearofcleanwater.org)>. Alternatively, subscribe to the Washington State Volunteer Monitors listserv by contacting Annie Phillips <[aphi461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:aphi461@ecy.wa.gov)> Pre-registration is mandatory. Register online by September 30, 2002.



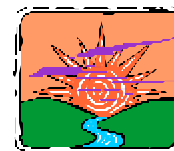
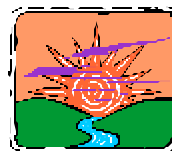
Workshop attendees examine where all-terrain vehicles driving through a stream channel in Aroostook county have caused aquatic habitat damage.

Photos from an applied fluvial geomorphology workshop held in June. *Fluvial geomorphology* is the study of physical processes in streams and rivers.



Workshop attendees learn about how bridges interact with rivers at a site in Somerset county.

# Calendar



**Do you have calendar items for us? Please contact us by December 1, 2002.**

**Trout Unlimited National Convention.** August 13-17, 2002. Portland, Maine. For more information, visit < [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org) >.

**Stream Assessments in Lake Watersheds.** August 20, 2002. Auburn, ME. The Maine Stream Team Program (MSTP) plans to collaborate with the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP), the Auburn Land Lab, and the Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission to conduct an information and training workshop on stream assessment surveys in lake watersheds. This event will provide attendees with tools and skills to be used for lake protection. The approach will focus on streams in lake watersheds as indicators of water quality. The day-long session will be open to teachers, lake association representatives, and others. The flexible program will provide attendees with information and options to consider for planning and organizing projects to protect local lakes and streams. Participants will receive sufficient information at the workshop to provide the groups they represent with the basics for planning a local project. Training groups wishing to conduct a local Stream Team survey (a.k.a. Stream Habitat Walk) could then receive formal training through the MSTP at a later date. Two sites in the Lake Auburn watershed will be visited. Registration is open to the public, but enrollment will be limited. For more information, or to register for the workshop, please contact Patty Gaudreau at the Auburn Land Lab [ email: [pgaudreau@auburnschl.edu](mailto:pgaudreau@auburnschl.edu) ; tel: (207) 783-4563 ] or the MSTP.

**Maine Rivers 5th Annual Fall Conference.** September 14 (workshops) & September 15 (guided paddle down the Androscoggin), 2002. The Bethel Inn, Bethel, ME. This will be a great opportunity to network with other river enthusiasts and attend a variety of workshops and discussions. The keynote speaker will be Robert H. Boyle (president of the Hudson Riverkeeper Fund). For more information contact Cyndie at (207) 622-3101 ext. 211 or visit <[www.mainerivers.org](http://www.mainerivers.org)>.

## **Estuaries: Where Rivers Meet the Sea.**

September 26, 2002, 7 pm. Peter Wellenberger, president of the National Estuarine Research Reserve Association, will explore the many kinds of estuaries around the United States, their importance, and the history and purpose of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. (Please bring a mug for complimentary coffee or tea.) For more information, visit < [www.wellsreserve.org](http://www.wellsreserve.org) >.

**National Water Monitoring Day.** October 18, 2002. See article on page 2.

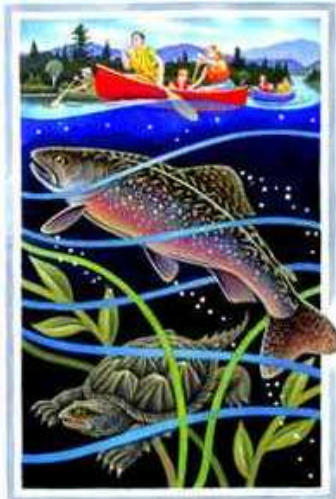




## Androscoggin River Source to the Sea Canoe Trek Fosters Recreational and Ecological Awareness

Submitted by Sue Lincoln

Androscoggin River Source to the Sea Canoe Trek Coordinator



"Wow, I didn't know this river was such good paddling," continues to be a common refrain from people on the annual Androscoggin River Source to the Sea Canoe Trek. In July the Androscoggin treated participants to three weeks of beautiful paddling. Awareness of what a great community and recreational resource the Androscoggin represents was a common theme over all 21 days of the Trek. There's something to be said for actually getting out on the river and experiencing its beauty and magic. Seeing those silver maples, bald eagles and great blue herons up close was quite an experience.

Launched on July 5 on the Magalloway River in New Hampshire and finishing 21 days later at Fort Popham near Bath, Maine, this year's Trek was a great success. Participants had fun, learned about the river and its history, and became more knowledgeable about the concept of a watershed.

2002 Canoe Trek logo courtesy of the Androscoggin River Watershed Council. Logo created by Jon Luoma.

The Trek is a project of the Androscoggin River Watershed Council, a group whose mission is to improve environmental quality and promote healthy and prosperous communities. The ARWC is a group of stakeholders throughout the river's watershed, from both New Hampshire and Maine. "The watershed council is a first for this area of New England," says Marcel Polak, Council chair and local business owner. "It brings together diverse groups to work on the health of the watershed and its communities."

Once one of the dirtiest rivers in the region, the Androscoggin has undergone a renaissance. Water quality has vastly improved, but still has a ways to go. "It's better than it was," says Barry Mower of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. "But it's not good enough." The Watershed Council invites people to join in the effort to care for the river and its watershed.

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### Hope Elementary

.... (continued from page 1)

. . . Their study culminated in a presentation of their findings to parents, teachers, the school principle, students from Herring Gut alternative learning center, and members of community interest groups. The following Stream Reflection was written by one of the students.

### Stream Reflection

We learned a lot about streams and stream testing. We learned how to do six different water tests, and what they mean to the environment. Invasive species are plants that harm a body of water because they can choke out other plants. We also learned about how we should care about our streams and the environment. If we just take away from the area and never give back then our town will end up looking like something out of The Lorax by Dr. Seuss. It was a good thing for us to do some testing and monitoring of our stream so that we can check on its health, but it is really good for us to present this information to others so that they know what we have been learning about and so that we can make everyone aware of the streams in our community. We need to make everyone aware so that we can keep the streams healthy. Everyone needs to keep our land clean.

## Auburn Middle School Students Examine Bobbin Brook

Ms. Wilson's seventh grade students at the Auburn Middle School raised wild atlantic salmon in their classroom incubator this past school year. With the help of Maine Conservation Corps/AmeriCorps volunteers Brie Begiebing, Alex Fite-Wassilak, Noralee Raymond, and Aaron Vaughn, the students performed an in-depth study of their local stream, Bobbin Brook, to determine whether it was an appropriate release site for the salmon. One student describes the study in her Reflection Essay:

### Reflection Essay

By an Auburn Middle School Student



Team 1 at Auburn Middle School has been studying about the environment and how important it is to keep it clean. We have gone to many different sites to try to clean up and find the source of the pollution and minimize it as much as we can. We are also raising wild Atlantic Salmon. We will soon release them in a healthy environment. We are doing a lot for the community by bringing these salmon into our watershed because they are an endangered species and we need to increase the wild Atlantic Salmon population. They are an endangered species in our community because we pollute our environment, they don't have a way to find food, and we also added dams to their natural habitats. They are having trouble crossing the dams but now the Androscoggin River is cleaned up and ready for wildlife to come back.

One site we often go to is Bobbin Brook. Bobbin Brook is a tributary to the Androscoggin River. We were hoping to have Bobbin Brook as our official release site for our salmon but first we need to make sure it is a healthy place for them to live. We went down to the water's edge a few times. We did biological investigation which is checking the macroinvertebrates (aquatic insects, snails, etc.) that are in the area and also checking if there are the right kind of macroinvertebrates for the salmon to eat. We did chemical testing for dissolved oxygen levels, phosphorous, pH levels, and nitrate levels. The last things we checked were the physical aspects of the stream. We needed to make sure no erosion was taking place, that there were good buffers\* around the water's edge and that there were no sources of pollution nearby. To our surprise we were not finding the results we were expecting. We found a lot of trash, stormwater runoff, and pipes going into the stream. Even the chemical results were not pleasing. But worst of all, most of the macroinvertebrates were not the kind that salmon need to survive. We decided that this was not the kind of place we wanted our salmon to live in.

We think that Bobbin Brook's condition needs a lot of work. Team 1 is ready to help out on cleaning the site. We want to plant buffers around the water's edge because a lot of erosion is taking place. We also want to find a way to minimize the pollution pedestrians and others are causing by coming to this site. We really want this stream to become the healthy and wonderful place it once was but this takes a lot of work. In science class we have been doing this project most of the year but it is almost summer vacation and we will not be able to go down there any more as a class to help out. I also hope that kids that are going to be Team 1 next year will also want to do this project. We have come far as a class on doing this project so hopefully next year's students will be as dedicated to this as we were.

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\*A *buffer* is a zone of streamside vegetation that serves to filter excess nutrients from stormwater runoff, provide streambank stability, and provide shade to keep streams cool.

## Damariscotta

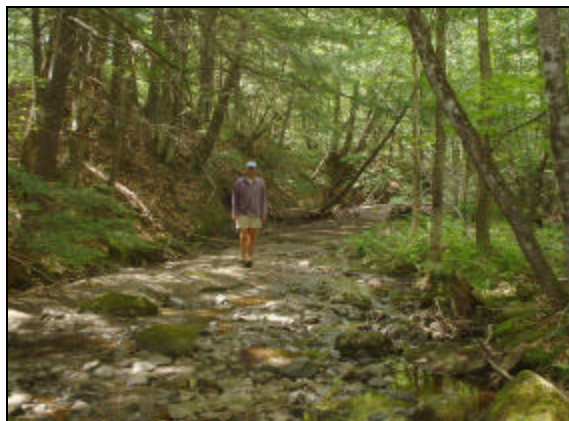
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. . . Through lively debate and discussion we reached a group consensus to ensure we gave an accurate account of the stream's condition. Just as we were finishing our first stretch of stream, a bald eagle flew directly overhead, seeming to signal all was well in the area.

We continued downstream to access another 300 ft section. In this section we also got to look at a variety of macroinvertebrates that Jeff Varricchione (MSTP) gathered. Their abundance and variety seemed to indicate a healthy environment. Though the cool conditions of the shade and stream were inviting, duty called and we continued on our way.

After lunch, we visited one final site that unfortunately was not as pristine as the first. It seems road debris has been entering the stream and depositing fine particles and sediments for years. Talking with the landowner, we learned that where years ago a boat could float, now it is hardly possible to wade.

The day was enjoyable for all as we got to be outside, visit beautiful reaches of our watershed and gather important information that will be added to a statewide system of data. We plan to continue work of the Stream Team with DLWA and hope to involve more people in the process. From our initial introduction we gathered the importance of getting to know the stream tributaries to our lake. Understanding what is happening with our lake's tributaries gives us a better sense of the overall state of the watershed.



Volunteers from the Sheepscot River Watershed Council and the MSTP perform a Stream Habitat Walk (or survey) on the Sheepscot River in Montville. Large amounts of sediment from a nearby road were found to have substantially plugged up river gravels and cobbles which likely degraded any fish and aquatic insect habitat in the area.



Stenciling storm drains in Portland on Earth Day, 2002.

## \$\$ Grant Opportunities \$\$

Funder	Region	Deadline	Phone	Web Site/E-mail
Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund	Maine	September 1	(207) 688-4191	<a href="http://janus.state.me.us/ifw/outdoorheritage/ohf-howtoapply.htm">http://janus.state.me.us/ifw/outdoorheritage/ohf-howtoapply.htm</a>
New England Grass-roots Environment Fund	CT, MA, <b>ME</b> , NH, RI, and VT	September 15	(802) 223-4622	<a href="http://www.grassrootsfund.org">www.grassrootsfund.org</a> <info@grassrootsfund.org>
Tom's of Maine, Inc.	National (emphasis on <b>ME</b> )	September 1	(207) 985-3982	<a href="http://www.tomsofmaine.com/about/grants.asp">www.tomsofmaine.com/about/grants.asp</a>

## Androscoggin River Trek

(Continued from page 4) . . .

Structured as a series of day trips, Trek 2002 was the seventh annual voyage down the 167-mile river. Participation throughout the 21 days of the Trek was remarkably even, averaging 35 people per day. Sixty-three percent of Trek paddlers live within the Androscoggin watershed. Another 31% were New Hampshire and Maine residents outside the watershed.

Special thanks are due to the volunteer section leaders, presenters and sponsoring organizations, including Jeff Varricchione and Brie Begiebing of the Maine Stream Team Program. Their generosity and enthusiasm for the river were shared freely with all who came along. Each day a volunteer section leader led a group from a specific put in to the day's take out. Special guests gave on-river talks on fisheries, Abenaki history, pollution prevention and other topics. Many local organizations hosted picnics for hungry paddlers. [The ARWC is Stream Team #45]



## Welcome New Stream Teams!!



**#39 Saco Middle School Ecology Club  
Stream Team**

**#40 Mere Brook Stream Team**

**#41 York Rivers Association Stream Team**

**#42 Damariscotta Lake Watershed Association Stream Team (Davis Stream)**

**#43 Hope Elementary 8th Grade Stream Team  
(Cliney Brook)**

**#44 Crooked River Stream Team**

**#45 Androscoggin River Watershed Council  
Stream Team**

For more information, check out the Stream Team List by starting at <[www.state.me.us/dep/blwq](http://www.state.me.us/dep/blwq)>. If you would like a hard copy of the map and list of stream teams, contact the MSTP.

## Auburn Middle School

(continued from page 5) . . .

. . . . Hopefully my classmates take this project seriously and will help out this summer and years to come, or at least get other people in our community that are interested in making a difference involved.

As I look back on this project I realize that I learned a gigantic amount of things. I learned a lot about different kinds of water testing, information about wild Atlantic Salmon but more important of all a life long lesson. Doing this project made me realize that we take a lot of things for granted and that all of our actions have consequences. A lot of them affect the environment, and without realizing it, humans are destroying all we ever had. It also make me realize that it's not too late to fix it. Maybe to you the environment in your community might seem clean but it's probably not as clean as it seems to be. You can change that but only if you want to and you try. Everyone can make a difference by helping out in their community. Every little thing you fix will eventually have a big impact on the health of the environment. Learning about all the little things we do that may have a bad effect on our environment makes me want to watch my actions. I hope that other people will get the message and start pitching in and realizing what they are doing. I really hope everyone will help out.





Maine Stream Team Program  
c/o Maine DEP  
312 Canco Road  
Portland, Maine 04103

*Return Service Requested*

## **How Do I Join the MSTP?**

It's easy! First, choose a stream or stream segment. Next, either obtain a "stream team registration form" by contacting us or filling out the online registration form. After registering, you will receive some helpful information and begin to receive our quarterly newsletter to help you stay up-to-date!

Membership to the program is free to any interested citizen, family, or organization! Once you have a "Team" and a stream, you're set! You can determine your stream's values and problems and you can plan projects based on your assessments. You establish the course of events in protecting your stream. The Maine Stream Team Program can help you with ideas, advice, and informational materials!

### **Contact The Maine Stream Team Program (MSTP):**

**Mail:** Maine Stream Team Program, c/o Maine DEP, 312 Canco Road, Portland, ME 04103

**E-mail:** [mstp@state.me.us](mailto:mstp@state.me.us)

**Internet:** [www.state.me.us/dep/blwq](http://www.state.me.us/dep/blwq)



**Phone:** (888)769-1036 (toll free – ask for the Maine Stream Team Program); (207)822-6317 [Jeff Varrichione, Portland, coordinator]; (207)822-6427 [Brie Begiebing, Portland]; (207) 287-7729 [Mary-Ellen Dennis, Augusta]; (207)941-4566 [Mark Whiting, Bangor]

Deadline for submitting calendar items, articles, or photos for the winter newsletter is December 1, 2002.

